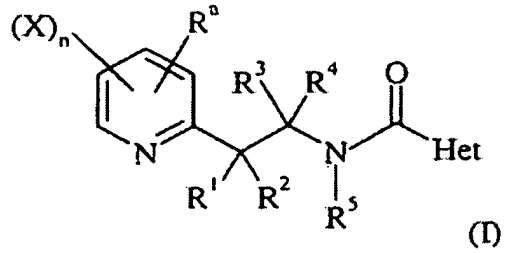
**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) A compound of ~~general~~ formula (I)



(I)

in which :

-n is 1, 2 or 3;

- $R^a$ is a $C_1$-$C_6$-halogenoalkyl having 1 to 5 halogen atoms;

- each substituent X is ~~chosen, independently of the others, as being~~ is independently selected from the group consisting of a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, a $C_1$-$C_6$-alkyl, and ~~or~~ a $C_1$-$C_6$-halogenoalkyl;

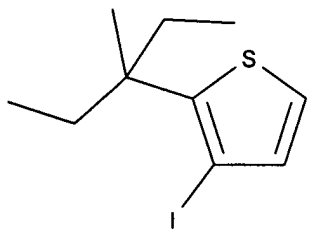
- $R^1$, $R^2$, $R^3$ and $R^4$ are ~~chosen, independently of the others, as being~~ independently selected from the group consisting of a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, a cyano group, a hydroxy group, an amino group, a sulfanyl group, a formyl group, a formyloxy group, a formylamino group, a carboxy group, a carbamoyl group, a N-hydroxycarbamoyl group, a carbamate group, a (hydroxyimino)-$C_1$-$C_6$-alkyl group, a $C_1$-$C_6$-alkyl, a $C_2$-$C_6$-alkenyl, a $C_2$-$C_6$-alkynyl, a $C_1$-$C_6$-alkylamino, a di-$C_1$-$C_6$-alkylamino, a $C_1$-$C_6$-alkoxy, a $C_1$-$C_6$-halogenoalkyl

having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, a $C_1$-$C_6$-halogenoalkoxy having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, a $C_1$-$C_6$-alkylsulfanyl, a $C_1$-$C_6$-halogenoalkylsulfanyl having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, a $C_2$-$C_6$-alkenyloxy, a $C_2$-$C_6$-halogenoalkenyloxy having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, a $C_3$-$C_6$-alkynyloxy, a $C_3$-$C_6$-halogenoalkynyloxy having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, a $C_3$-$C_6$-cycloalkyl, a $C_3$-$C_6$-halogenocycloalkyl having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, a $C_1$-$C_6$-alkylcarbonyl, a $C_1$-$C_6$-halogenoalkylcarbonyl having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, a $C_1$-$C_6$-alkylcarbamoyl, a di-$C_1$-$C_6$-alkylcarbamoyl, a N-$C_1$-$C_6$-alkyloxycarbamoyl, a $C_1$-$C_6$-alkoxycarbamoyl, a N-$C_1$-$C_6$-alkyl-$C_1$-$C_6$-alkoxycarbamoyl, a $C_1$-$C_6$-alkoxycarbonyl, a $C_1$-$C_6$-halogenoalkoxycarbonyl having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, a $C_1$-$C_6$-alkylcarbonyloxy, a $C_1$-$C_6$-halogenoalkylcarbonyloxy having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, a $C_1$-$C_6$-alkylcarbonylamino, a $C_1$-$C_6$-halogenoalkylcarbonylamino having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, a $C_1$-$C_6$-alkylaminocarbonyloxy, a di-$C_1$-$C_6$-alkylaminocarbonyloxy, a $C_1$-$C_6$-alkyloxycarbonyloxy, a $C_1$-$C_6$-alkylsulphenyl, a $C_1$-$C_6$-halogenoalkylsulphenyl having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, a $C_1$-$C_6$-alkylsulphinyl, a $C_1$-$C_6$-halogenoalkylsulphinyl having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, a $C_1$-$C_6$-alkylsulphonyl, a $C_1$-$C_6$-halogenoalkylsulphonyl having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, a benzyl, a benzyloxy, a benzylsulfanyl, a benzylsulfinyl, a benzylsulfonyl, a benzylamino, a phenoxy, a phenylsulfanyl, a phenylsulfinyl, a phenylsulfonyl, a phenylamino, a phenylcarbonylamino, a 2,6 dichlorophenyl-carbonylamino group, and ~~or~~ a phenyl group; or $R^1$ and $R^2$ may form together a cyclopropyl, a ~~cylcobutyl~~ cyclobutyl, a cyclopentyl or a cyclohexyl;

with the proviso that when three of the four substituents $R^1$, $R^2$, $R^3$ and $R^4$ are a hydrogen atom, then the fourth substituent is not a hydrogen atom;

- $R^5$ is ~~chosen as being~~ selected from the group consisting of a hydrogen atom, a cyano group, a formyl group, a hydroxy group, a $C_1$-$C_6$-alkyl, a $C_1$-$C_6$-halogenoalkyl having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, a $C_1$-$C_6$-alkoxy, a $C_1$-$C_6$-halogenoalkoxy having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, a $C_3$-$C_6$-cycloalkyl, a $C_3$-$C_6$-halogenocycloalkyl having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, a $C_2$-$C_6$-alkenyl, a $C_2$-$C_6$-alkynyl, a $C_1$-$C_6$-alkoxy-$C_1$-$C_6$-alkyl, a $C_1$-$C_6$-cyanoalkyl. a $C_1$-$C_6$-aminoalkyl, a $C_1$-$C_6$-alkylamino-$C_1$-$C_6$-alkyl, a di-$C_1$-$C_6$-alkylamino-$C_1$-$C_6$-alkyl, a $C_1$-$C_6$-alkylcarbonyl, a $C_1$-$C_6$-halogenalkylcarbonyl having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, a $C_1$-$C_6$-alkyloxycarbonyl, a $C_3$-$C_7$-cycloalkyl, a $C_3$-$C_7$-halogenocycloalkyl having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, a $C_3$-$C_7$-cycloalkyl-$C_1$-$C_6$-alkyl, a $C_1$-$C_6$-benzyloxycarbonyl, a $C_1$-$C_6$-alkoxy-$C_1$-$C_6$-alkylcarbonyl, a $C_1$-$C_6$-alkylsulfonyl, and ~~or~~ a $C_1$-$C_6$-halogenoalkylsulfonyl having 1 to 5 halogen atoms; and

- Het represents a ~~5-, 6- or 7-membered non-fused~~ heterocycle ~~with one, two or three heteroatoms which may be the same or different,~~ of the structure




Het being linked by a carbon atom ~~and being at least substituted in ortho position~~;

as well as its salts, ~~N-oxydes~~ N-oxides, metallic complexes, metalloidic complexes and optically active isomers.

2. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The compound ~~according to~~ of claim 1~~, characterised in that~~ wherein n is 1 or 2.

3. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The compound ~~according to~~ of claim 1~~, characterised in that~~ wherein X is a halogen atom.

4. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The compound ~~according to~~ of claim 3~~, characterised in that~~ wherein X is chlorine.

5. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The compound ~~according to~~ of claim 1~~, characterised in that~~ wherein $R^a$ is $-CF_3$.

6. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The compound ~~according to~~ of claim 1~~, characterised in that~~ wherein the 2-pyridyl is substituted in the 3- and/or in the 5-position.

7. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The compound ~~according to~~ of claim 6~~, characterised in that~~ wherein the 2-pyridyl is substituted in the 3-position by X and in the 5-position by R".

8. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The compound ~~according to~~ of claim 1~~, characterised in that~~ wherein the 2-pyridyl is substituted in the 3-position by -Cl and in the 5-position by $-CF_3$.

9. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The compound ~~according to~~ of claim 1~~, characterised in that~~ wherein $R^1$ and $R^2$ are ~~chosen,~~ independently ~~of each other, as being~~ selected from the group consisting of a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, a cyano group, a hydroxy group, a $C_1$-$C_6$-alkyl, a $C_1$-$C_6$-halogenoalkyl having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, a $C_2$-$C_6$-alkenyl, a $C_1$-$C_6$-alkoxy, a $C_1$-$C_6$-alkylsulfanyl, a $C_1$-$C_6$-alkylsulfenyl, a $C_1$-$C_6$-alkylsulfinyl, a $C_1$-$C_6$-alkoxycarbonyl, a $C_1$-$C_6$-alkylcarbonylamino, a $C_1$-$C_6$-alkoxycarbonyloxy, a $C_1$-$C_6$-alkoxycarbonylamino, and ~~or~~ a phenyl group.

10. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The compound ~~according to~~ of claim 9~~, characterised in that~~ wherein $R^1$ and $R^2$ are ~~chosen,~~ independently ~~of each other, as being~~ selected from the group consisting of a halogen atom, a $C_1$-$C_6$-alkyl, a $C_1$-$C_6$-halogenoalkyl having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, and ~~or~~ a $C_1$-$C_6$-alkylcarbonylamino.

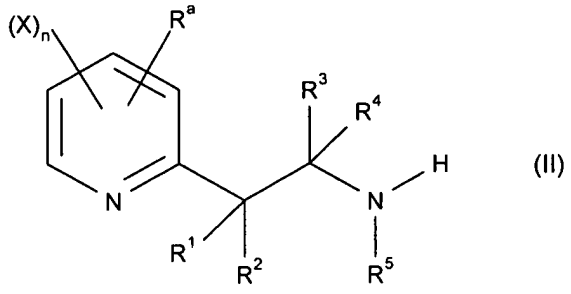
11. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The compound ~~according to~~ of claim 1~~, characterised in that~~ wherein $R^3$ and $R^4$ are ~~chosen,~~ independently ~~of each other, as being~~ selected from the group consisting of a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, a cyano group, a $C_1$-$C_6$-alkyl, a $C_1$-$C_6$-halogenoalkyl having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, a $C_1$-$C_6$-alkylcarbonylamino, and ~~or~~ a phenyl group.

12. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The compound ~~according to~~ of claim 11~~, characterised in that~~ wherein $R^3$ and $R^4$ are ~~chosen,~~ independently ~~of each other, as being~~ selected from the group consisting of a halogen atom, a $C_1$-$C_6$-alkyl, a $C_1$-$C_6$-halogenoalkyl having 1 to 5 halogen atoms, and ~~or~~ a phenyl group.

13. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The compound ~~according to~~ of claim 1~~, characterised in that~~ wherein $R^5$ is selected from the group consisting of a hydrogen atom, and ~~or~~ a $C_3$-$C_7$-cycloalkyl.

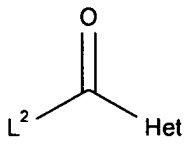
14 - 15 (Canceled)

16. (Currently Amended) A process for the preparation of a compound of ~~general~~ formula (I) as defined in claim 1, which comprises reacting a 2-pyridine derivative of the ~~general~~ formula (II) or one of its ~~salt~~ salts:




(II)

with a carboxylic acid derivative of the the ~~general~~ formula (III)

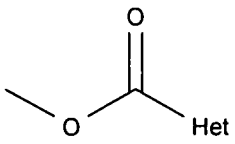



(III)

in which :

~~and~~

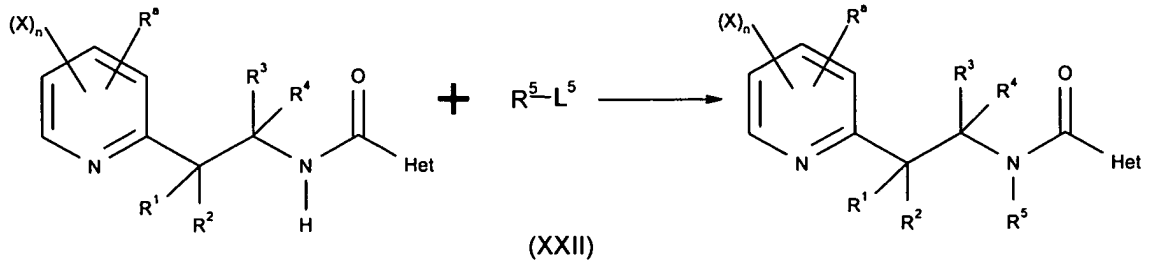
- $L^2$ is a leaving group ~~chosen as being~~ selected from the group consisting of a halogen atom, a hydroxyl group, $-OR^6$, $-OCOR^6$, $R^6$ being a $C_1$-$C_6$ alkyl, a $C_1$-$C_6$ haloalkyl, a benzyl, 4-methoxybenzyl, pentafluorophenyl or a group of formula




;

in the presence of a catalyst and, if $L^2$ is a hydroxyl group, in the presence of a condensing agent.

17. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The process ~~according to~~ of claim 16~~,~~ ~~characterised in that~~ wherein $R^5$ is a hydrogen atom and ~~that~~ the process is completed by a further step according to the following reaction scheme:




in which :

- $L^5$ is a leaving group ~~chosen as being~~ selected from the group consisting of a halogen atom, a 4-methyl phenylsulfonyloxy or a methylsulfonyloxy;

comprising the reaction of a compound of ~~general~~ formula (Id) with a compound of general formula (XXII) to provide a compound of ~~general~~ formula (I).

18. (Previously Presented) A fungicidal composition comprising an effective amount of a compound according to claim 1 and an agriculturally acceptable support.

19. (Currently Amended) A method for ~~preventively or curatively~~ combating the phytopathogenic fungi of crops, characterised in that an effective and non-phytotoxic amount of a composition according to claim 18 is applied to the plant seeds or to the plant leaves and/or to the fruits of the plants or to the soil in which the plants are growing or in which it is desired to grow them.